

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)

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SUBJECT 1. Aviation Medicine
2. Civilian Medicine
3. Antibiotics and Immunization

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REFERENCES

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. All medical personnel serving on active duty with the Soviet Armed Forces were assigned to the Medical Service, and from there they could be attached to any branch of the service, Army, Navy, or Air Force. Personnel assigned to the Army and Air Force wore the same uniform, which consisted of a green blouse with a red sleeve band and dark blue trousers, either full length or the type worn with boots (Sapogi). Personnel assigned to the Navy wore the Navy dark blue uniform. No special training was given to physicians serving with the Air Force. Individuals specializing in a certain phase of medicine were given on-the-job training. On occasion, refresher courses were taught at group hospitals, especially when an individual transferred from administrative work back to practical medicine. The courses varied in length.

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2. [redacted] rated physicians or of physicians being given flight training. Such training for medical personnel was neither required nor offered on a voluntary basis. Should a physician request flight training, [redacted] serious consideration would be given or approval granted. My opinion is that such training would be considered a waste of time.

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3. Women physicians were serving with tactical units of SAF in the same capacity as male physicians, and they received the identical training. During World War II, a light bomber regiment (unidentified) was staffed entirely by women. The women physicians were accepted on an equal basis by the male officers, and were considered to be just as competent.

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4. Each branch of the Soviet armed forces had its own respective hospitals which were staffed by its respective personnel. Only in the case of an emergency were personnel of one branch of the service admitted to a hospital of another branch.
5. Throughout the entire USSR, [] that 60% of the civilian physicians were male and 40% female. The ratio of physicians in the military service was approximately 95% male and 5% female. In civilian hospitals approximately 60% of the staff was made up of male physicians and 40% of female, whereas in military hospitals the ratio was approximately 90% male and 10% female. 25X1
6. Although the medical attention afforded the civilian population was adequate, [] that many isolated areas were lacking doctors and proper medical care. Hospitalization and medical attention was readily available and adequate to civilians in the USSR. No distinction was made between non-Party and Party members either in care or the matter of admittance to a hospital. There were no priority groups. To gain admittance to a hospital an individual was examined either at home or at a clinic or hospital by a doctor; if proper care could not be administered at home, the patient was then admitted to a hospital. 25X1
7. With respect to antibiotics, [] that Dr. (fnu) LEPESHINSKAYA, a female microbiologist about 65 years old, had been credited with the discovery of the Soviet penicillin and was experimenting with other antibiotics in Moscow. Soviet penicillin was available in sufficient quantities to the general public. [] synthomycin, gramicidin, or any other antibiotics except streptomycin, which was still being developed and was not available. 25X1
8. Immunization shots were given all military personnel at the time of their induction and yearly thereafter, with the exception of anti-tetanus shots which were given to a person only when wounded. The yearly shots included typhoid, para-typhoid, cholera, and dysentery. Smallpox vaccinations were given once every seven years. [] heard of any special immunization shots being given to personnel in certain areas. 25X1
1. [] Comment. The doctor referred to is the well-known Dr. Olga Borisovna LEPESHINSKAYA. 25X1A

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